DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 142 252 JC 770 383

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TITLE The Graduates 1976.
INSTITUTION Montgomery Coll., Rockville, Md. Office of Institutional Research.
PUB DATE 77
NOTE 54p.; Some parts of the document are of marginal legibility

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$3.50 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS College Credits; Community Colleges; Counseling Effectiveness; Employment Patterns; *Followup Studies; *Graduate Surveys; Institutional Research; *Job Placement; *Junior Colleges; *Program Effectiveness; Salaries; *Transfer Students

ABSTRACT

A followup survey to determine the present circumstances of 1976 graduates and their attitudes toward their educational experiences resulted in the following findings: (1) almost equal numbers were employed as were in school; (2) of those in school, the majority were enrolled at the University of Maryland; (3) of those employed, most were earning more than $8,000 per year; (4) there was high satisfaction with jobs, programs of study, the level of instruction, and the counseling services at Montgomery; (5) a majority would recommend the college and its programs to friends; and (6) most achieved their initial goals at the community college. Problem areas identified included the loss of transfer credits to Maryland public colleges and universities, the lack of college job placement services, and the apparent lack of support from high school personnel. It was recommended that the college conduct case studies of those who lost credits at transfer, that it investigate the need for job placement resources, and that it increase its articulation with feeder high schools. Summative data is divided by field of study with regard to employment and salary information, and the questionnaire is appended. (RT)

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THE GRADUATES 1976

A Follow-Up Study of the Students Who Graduated from Montgomery College in 1976

by

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Office of Institutional Research and Analysis

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Montgomery County, Maryland

1977

JC 770383

ABSTRACT

The Montgomery College graduate follow-up project is part of the College's program evaluation system. This survey was designed to determine the present circumstances of the 1976 graduates as well as their attitudes toward their educational experiences at Montgomery College. As in past surveys, there was an almost equal mix of employed graduates and graduates in attendance at four-year institutions of higher education. The majority of the graduates in school were attending the University of Maryland in spite of the fact that they tend to lose credit more often there than at other schools. The majority of those employed were earning in excess of $8,000 per year in jobs located in Montgomery County. Only a few of these jobs were secured with assistance from the College.

The 1976 graduates were extremely satisfied with their jobs, their programs of study, the level of instruction, and the counseling services at the College. An overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that they were satisfied enough with their experiences at Montgomery College to recommend the College and their specific programs of study to their friends, and that they had achieved what they set out to do at Montgomery College.

The findings led the researchers to make three recommendations: (1) a case by case study should be made of students who report credit loss when they transfer to the University of Maryland (the study would verify the students' report and identify those university departments which tend to deny credits), (2) the College should assess its job

placement responsibility, and (3) formal articulation arrangements should be made between the College and Montgomery County public schools in related vocational programs.

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THE GRADUATES 1976

INTRODUCTION

Each year since 1970, all graduates of Montgomery College have been surveyed to determine their employment and educational circumstances approximately six months after graduation. These annual surveys provide information regarding the graduates' attitudes toward their experiences at Montgomery College and supply data through which comparisons among classes may be made. Any trends in either circumstances or attitudes may be discerned and, in turn, may be used either to validate current programs and practices at Montgomery College or serve as catalysts for change.

Remarkably, comparisons among the 1970-1976 graduates have revealed few major changes in either activities or attitudes toward the College; yet, the findings add understanding and perspective to the services offered at Montgomery College.

As in previous years, the report of findings will follow the format of the questionnaire and will be preceded by a description of the population. Where useful, comparisons with data from previous years are presented and relationships among items are discussed.

1. THE POPULATION

In January of 1977 questionnaires were mailed to all 1,079 students who graduated during the 1975-1976 academic year. Usable responses were received from 708 (66%) of the graduates. Thus, the results presented in this report could be biased if the 34 percent of the graduates who did not respond would have responded differently from those who did. The researchers have assumed that no such difference exists.

There was variation observed in the proportion of responding graduates from the various curricula. As shown in Table I, the career curricula produced the largest numbers of graduates and responses, but the response rates of graduates in the transfer and general education programs were slightly higher.

2. THE FINDINGS

Graduates were asked what they were doing at the time of the survey and were requested to check as many activities as applied to them. This led to the recording of 374 more responses than there were respondents, an overlap due primarily to respondents who were both employed and pursuing further education at the time of the survey (Tables II and III).

Of the 708 respondents, two-thirds were employed either full-time or part-time, while 57 percent were enrolled in educational institutions at the time of the survey. The proportion of respondents in school represents a slight decrease from the 62 percent of 1975 graduates who were in school at the time of the 1975 survey.

TABLE I

SURVEY RESPONSE RATE OF 1976 GRADUATES BY CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM	NUMBER OF GRADUATES	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENT
TRANSFER			
Business Administration	39	29	74%
Cartography	2	1	50%
Community Planning	4	4	100%
Geography	2	2	100%
Education	53	42	79%
Engineering	12	7	58%
Fine Arts	42	22	52%
Liberal Arts	51	36	71%
Medical Technology	5	4	80%
Theatre	4	1	25%
Total	214	148	69%
GENERAL			
General Education	261	186	71%
CAREER			
Accounting	11	6	55%
Allied Health	195	118	61%
Management	23	16	70%
Cartography	1	1	100%
Community Planning	1	1	100%
Geography	0	0	0%
Child Care Aide Certificate	27	20	74%
Computer Science and Technology	45	25	56%
Engineering Technologies	40	23	58%
Hospitality Management	21	10	48%
Instructional Aide Certificate	20	13	65%
Public Service	83	48	58%
Recreation Leadership	25	19	76%
Secretarial	62	44	71%
Visual Communications Technology	50	30	60%
Total	604	374	62%
GRAND TOTAL	1079	708	66%

TABLE II

PRESENT STATUS OF 1976 GRADUATES

IN SCHOOL				
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Percent
	281	123	404	57%
EMPLOYED				
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Percent
	328	148	476	67%
MILITARY SERVICE				
	Active	Reserve	Total	Percent
	3	9	12	2%
UNEMPLOYED				
	Looking for Job	Not Looking for Job	Total	Percent
	39	57	96	14%
HOUSEWIFE				
	76	-	76	11%
OTHER				
	18	-	18	3%

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS = 708

TABLE III

GRADUATES EMPLOYED
AND CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION

EMPLOYMENT STATUS / SCHOOL STATUS			IN SCHOOL Full-Time #	IN SCHOOL Full-Time %	IN SCHOOL Part-Time #	IN SCHOOL Part-Time %	NOT IN SCHOOL #	NOT IN SCHOOL %	TOTAL #	TOTAL %
EMPLOYED	Full-Time	#	24	9%	79	64%	225	74%	328	46%
		%	7%		24%		69%		100%	
	Part-Time	#	91	32%	17	14%	40	13%	148	21%
		%	62%		11%		27%		100%	
NOT EMPLOYED		#	166	59%	27	22%	39	13%	232	33%
		%	71%		12%		17%		100%	
TOTAL		#	281	100%	123	100%	304	100%	708	100%
		%	40%		17%		43%		100%	

Graduates in Institutions of Higher Education

Those graduates continuing their education either full- or part-time were asked to indicate the general category of institution which they were attending. A summary for 1976 graduates is presented in Table IV, along with comparative data for the 1974 and 1975 graduates.

It may be seen that the greatest number of students who continue their studies do so at the University of Maryland. The proportion of transferring students in attendance at the University has been higher in 1975 and 1976 than it was in 1974. There has been little other variation in patterns of transfer, except that a relatively large number of 1976 graduates have returned to the College. Table V and Figure I display graphically the geographic location of the schools to which 1976 graduates have transferred. A complete list of these schools is contained in Appendix C.

TABLE IV

SCHOOLS TRANSFERRED TO BY 1974, 1975, and 1976 GRADUATES

	1974 GRADUATES	1975 GRADUATES	% CHANGE FROM 1974	1976 GRADUATES	% CHANGE FROM 1975
University of Maryland	159 (44%)	193 (50%)	+6%	190 (49%)	-1%
Maryland State College (includes Md. Comm. College)	18 (5%)	42 (10%)	+5%	23 (6%)	-4%
Md. Private College or University	12 (3%)	8 (3%)	0%	6 (1%)	-2%
Univ. or College in Wash., D.C.	73 (20%)	48 (12%)	-8%	46 (12%)	0%
Univ. or College not in Wash., D.C.	50 (14%)	57 (15%)	+1%	68 (16%)	+1%
Trade or Technical School	2 (1%)	5 (1%)	0%	2 (1%)	0%
Montgomery College Post-Graduate	46 (13%)	33 (9%)	-4%	59 (15%)	+6%
No Response	2	9		10	
TOTAL	362 (54%)	395 (62%)		404 (57%)	

The 1976 graduates, numbering 404, who indicated that they were continuing their education represent 57 percent of those responding, as noted previously. In 1975, this proportion was 62 percent; in 1974 it was 54 percent; in 1973 it was 58 percent; in 1972 it was 61 percent and in 1971 it was 59 percent of the respondents. There have, then, been some minor fluctuations in the proportion of graduates who transfer, a low point having been reached in 1974.

Loss of Credit

Of the graduates who transferred, 56 percent report having lost credit upon transferring. The number of credit hours lost ranges from 1 to 40, although 50 percent of those who lost credit lost 7 or fewer hours.

TABLE V

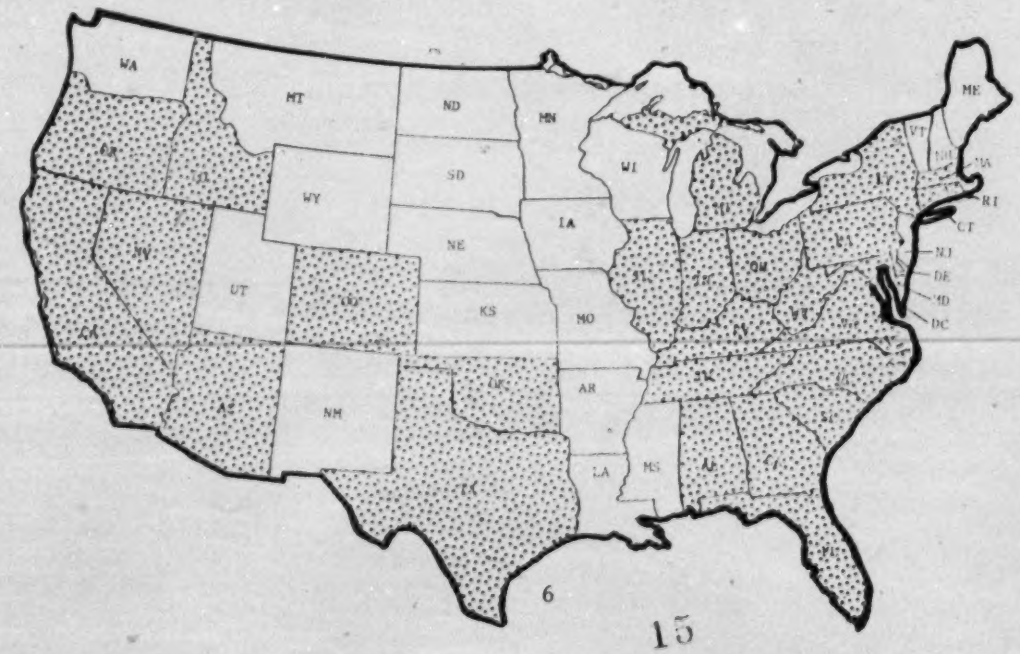
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSFER STUDENTS BY STATE

STATE	NUMBER TRANSFERRED
Alabama	2
Arizona	3
California	4
Colorado	2
Connecticut	1
Florida	8
Georgia	1
Idaho	1
Illinois	4
Indiana	1
Kentucky	1
Maryland	278*
Massachusetts	3
Michigan	1
Nevada	1
New York	6
North Carolina	2
Ohio	5
Oklahoma	1
Oregon	1
Pennsylvania	4
Rhode Island	1
South Carolina	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	1
Virginia	9
Washington, D.C.	46
West Virginia	4
No Response	10
Heidelburg, West Germany	1
Total	404

*Includes Montgomery College Post Graduates.

FIGURE I

LOCATION BY STATE OF SCHOOLS TO WHICH 1976 GRADUATES OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE HAVE TRANSFERRED



A comparison of the numbers of students who lost at least one credit among types of receiving institutions (Table VI) indicates that a greater proportion of transfer students (62%) at the University of Maryland lost credit than did any other category of transfer student, although the graduates at the Maryland state colleges ran a close second. Thus, loss of credit at in-state public institutions apparently continues to pose a problem for Montgomery College graduates.

Employed Graduates

The 328 respondents who were working full-time were asked to indicate their current weekly salaries without overtime and before deductions. More than half of those answering this question earn more than $8,000 per year, and 47 percent earn more than $9,000 per year. (Table VII). However, of those 1976 graduates who reported earnings in excess of $9,000 per year, only 40 percent have held their jobs for less than one year and there is a significant relationship ($p < .0001$) between earnings and length of time a job is held. (Table VIII and Appendix D).

The majority of the respondents have held their current jobs for less than one year, which indicates that most jobs were found either just prior to graduation or after graduation from Montgomery College. (Table IX). The 24 percent of this group who have held their current jobs from one to two years, probably worked while in attendance at Montgomery College, while the 24 percent who have held their current jobs for three or more years probably entered a program at Montgomery College for the purpose of upgrading their skills on existing jobs.

TABLE VI

GRADUATES REPORTING A LOSS OF CREDIT WHEN TRANSFERRING

RECEIVING INSTITUTION	GRADUATES REPORTING A LOSS OF CREDIT		GRADUATES REPORTING NO LOSS OF CREDIT		GRADUATES WHO SAID THEY DON'T KNOW OR MADE NO RESPONSE	TOTAL TRANSFERS
	Graduates	Percent	Graduates	Percent		
University of Maryland	101	(62%)	63	(38%)	26	190
Maryland State College	14	(61%)	9	(39%)	0	23
Maryland Private College	3	(50%)	3	(50%)	0	6
University or College in D.C.	14	(31%)	31	(69%)	1	46
University or College not in Maryland or D.C.	32	(56%)	25	(44%)	11	68
Trade or Technical School	1	(50%)	1	(50%)	0	2
Montgomery College Post-Graduate	-	-	-	-	59	59
Not known	-	-	-	-	10	10
TOTAL	165	(56%)	132	(44%)	107	404

TABLE VII

CURRENT GROSS WEEKLY SALARY OF GRADUATES WORKING FULL-TIME

REPORTED WEEKLY SALARY RANGE	APPROX. ANNUAL SALARY RANGE	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
$0 - $130	- $6,760	44	14%
$131 - $145	$6,760 - $7,540	28	9%
$146 - $160	$7,540 - $8,320	44	14%
$161 - $175	$8,320 - $9,100	31	10%
$176 - $190	$9,100 - $9,880	20	7%
$191 - $205	$9,880 - $10,660	23	7%
$206 - $220	$10,660 - $11,440	22	7%
More than $220	$11,440 -	99	32%
No response		17	
TOTAL		328	100%

TABLE VIII

GROSS WEEKLY SALARY OF GRADUATES EMPLOYED FULL-TIME
BY LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT

GROSS WEEKLY SALARY		LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT IN CURRENT POSITION													
		LESS THAN 1 YEAR		1 - 2 YEARS		3 - 5 YEARS		6 - 10 YEARS		MORE THAN 10 YEARS		NO RESPONSE	TOTAL	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%
$0 - 130	#	28	17%	9	12%	7	17%	0	-	0	-	(0)	44	14%
	%	63%		21%		16%		-		-			100%	
$131 - 145	#	21	13%	5	7%	2	5%	0	-	0	-	(0)	28	9%
	%	75%		18%		7%		-		-			100%	
$146 - 160	#	27	17%	11	14%	5	12%	1	4%	0	-	(0)	44	14%
	%	61%		25%		12%		2%		-			100%	
$161 - 175	#	20	12%	9	12%	2	5%	0	-	0	-	(0)	31	10%
	%	64%		29%		7%		-		-			100%	
$176 - 190	#	14	9%	5	7%	0	-	1	5%	0	-	(0)	20	7%
	%	70%		25%		-		5%		-			100%	
$191 - 205	#	15	9%	6	8%	1	2%	0	-	0	-	(1)	23	7%
	%	68%		27%		5%		-		-			100%	
$206 - 220	#	16	10%	5	7%	0	-	0	-	1	13%	(0)	22	7%
	%	72%		23%		-		-		5%			100%	
More than $220	#	22	13%	25	33%	25	59%	20	91%	7	87%	(0)	99	32%
	%	23%		25%		25%		20%		7%				
No Response		(6)		(1)		(2)		(2)		(1)		(5)	17	
TOTAL	#	169	100%	76	100%	44	100%	24	100%	9	100%	(6)	328	100%
	%	52%		24%		14%		7%		3%			100%	

$\chi^2_{18} = 95.85$ $P < .0001$

TABLE IX

NUMBER OF YEARS FULL-TIME EMPLOYED GRADUATES
HAVE HELD THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS

YEARS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Less than 1 year	169	52%
1 - 2 years	76	24%
3 - 5 years	44	14%
6 - 10 years	24	7%
11 years or more	9	3%
No response	6	-
TOTAL	328	100%

Location of Employment (Full-Time Employees)

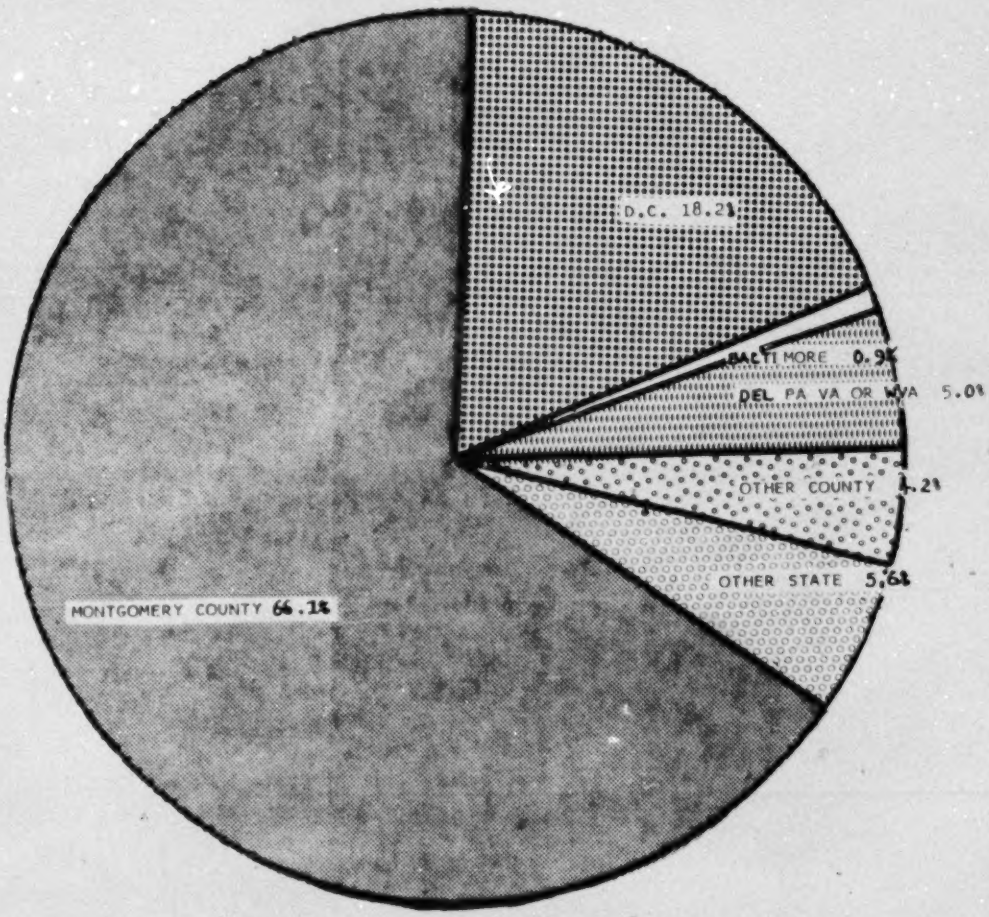
Sixty-six percent of the full-time employed graduates work in Montgomery County and 5 percent work in other Maryland districts. Eighteen percent work in the District of Columbia (Table X, Figure II).

TABLE X

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES)

LOCATION	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Montgomery County	211	66%
Other County in Maryland	13	4%
Baltimore city	3	1%
Washington, D. C.	58	18%
Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia	16	5%
Other Out-of-State Location	18	6%
No Response	9	-
TOTAL	328	100%

FIGURE II
PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT OF 1976 GRADUATES EMPLOYED FULL TIME



Finding a Job (Full-Time Employees)

Of those responding to the question concerning where they secured help in locating their first job, 35 percent indicated that they held the same job while attending Montgomery College. Another 19 percent were helped by their family or a friend. Only 10 percent were helped in locating their first job through a source connected with Montgomery College (Table XI).

TABLE XI
SOURCES OF HELP IN LOCATING FIRST JOB
(FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES)

SOURCE	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Faculty Member	28	9%
Montgomery College Placement Office	1	-
Employment Agency	8	2%
Family or Friend	61	19%
Montgomery College Job Board	2	1%
Held same job while attending M.C.	115	35%
Other	113	34%
TOTAL	328	100%

Studies Related to Job (Full-Time Employees)

The perceived relationship between program of studies of graduates and their present position was also investigated. Of those responding, 56 percent perceived a direct relationship, and 17 percent felt that their studies and their jobs were somewhat related. On the other hand, 19 percent perceived no relationship at all between their studies and their jobs (Table XII).

TABLE XII

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROGRAM OF STUDIES
AND PRESENT POSITION
(FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES)

STUDIES AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE WERE	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Directly related	180	56%
Somewhat related	56	17%
Vaguely related	24	8%
Not at all related	62	19%
No Response	6	-
TOTAL	328	100%

Of those who felt that their programs of study and their present positions were unrelated (Table XIII), 79 percent either opted out of the field for which they had prepared or were not involved in a job-related curriculum at Montgomery College. Twenty-one percent of the respondents whose studies and job were unrelated reported they could not find a job in their field of study. This is down from the 29 percent of the 1975 graduates who indicated they could not find a job in their field.

Montgomery College graduates have consistently indicated satisfaction with both their current jobs and the preparation provided by Montgomery College (Table XIV). This is true for 1976 as well, with 84 percent of the respondents indicating satisfaction with their jobs

TABLE XIII

REASONS GIVEN FOR "NOT AT ALL RELATED" RESPONSE
(FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES)

REASONS	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Could not find job in field	13	21%
Better pay than in field of study	10	16%
Better opportunity for advancement than in field of study	6	10%
Wanted to explore other work possibilities	8	13%
Did not want to work in field once I graduated	2	3%
My curriculum at Montgomery College was not directly job related	15	24%
Other	8	13%
TOTAL RESPONSES	62	100%

TABLE XIV

SATISFACTION WITH JOB AND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE PREPARATION
(FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES)

	CURRENT JOB		M.C. PREPARATION	
	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Highly satisfied	118	38%	99	37%
Satisfied	141	46%	145	54%
Dissatisfied	37	12%	19	7%
Highly Dissatisfied	12	4%	6	2%
No Response	20	-	59	-
TOTAL	328	100%	328	100%

and 91 percent indicating satisfaction with their preparation at Montgomery College. This general level of satisfaction, moreover, is spread throughout all curriculums (Summary Table in Appendix B).

Unemployed Graduates

A total of 39, or 10 percent of the graduates who responded to the 1976 survey, were unemployed at the time of survey. Those who listed themselves as unemployed were asked what they felt was the major reason for their not being able to find a job. Of those who responded to this question, 26 percent indicated they were not looking for jobs, while 11 percent felt they needed more education to qualify for the jobs they wanted. Only 6 (22%) indicated that the lack of openings prevented them from finding jobs (Table XV).

TABLE XV

REASONS GIVEN FOR "NOT BEING ABLE" TO FIND A JOB
(UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES)

REASONS	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Salary too low	8	30%
Few openings	6	22%
Need more education to qualify for job I want	3	11%
Have changed career objective	3	11%
Not looking for a job	7	26%
No Response	12	-
TOTAL	39	100%

The Graduates' Recommendations

All of the graduates were asked to reply to a series of questions concerning how they felt about the instructional and counseling services they received at Montgomery College. Two-thirds felt they had benefited from contact with instructors outside of class, and more than 99 percent felt they had benefited from classroom instruction (Table XVI).

As for the difficulty of the courses at Montgomery College, 62 percent found them somewhat or very difficult, indicating that a majority of the respondents found the courses challenging but not overwhelming (Table XVII).

TABLE XVI

BENEFIT OF INSTRUCTOR CONTACT OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM AND CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

	NO	VERY LITTLE	SOMEWHAT	VERY MUCH	NO RESPONSE	TOTAL
Did you benefit from contact with instructors outside of classroom	114	129	254	199	12	708
Percent	16%	19%	36%	29%	-	100%
Classroom instruction	0	5	196	491	16	708
Percent	0%	1%	28%	71%	-	100%

TABLE XVII

DIFFICULTY OF COURSES AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

RATING	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Not difficult	58	9%
A little difficult	200	29%
Somewhat difficult	390	57%
Very difficult	38	5%
No Response	22	-
TOTAL	708	100%

More than 60 percent of the 1976 graduates sought counseling from the counseling staff at some time during their period of studies at Montgomery College (Table XVIII), while 72 percent of those who sought counseling services indicated that they had benefited "somewhat" or "very much" from counseling (Table XIX).

TABLE XVIII

EXTENT TO WHICH GRADUATES SOUGHT COUNSELING SERVICES

	FREQUENTLY	INFREQUENTLY	NOT AT ALL	NO RESPCNSE	TOTAL
Number of Graduates	81	355	261	11	708
Percent of Respondents	12%	51%	37%	-	100%

TABLE XIX

EXTENT TO WHICH GRADUATES WHO SOUGHT COUNSELING SERVICES BENEFITED FROM THESE SERVICES

LEVEL OF BENEFIT	GRADUATES WHO SOUGHT COUNSELING SERVICES					
	FREQUENTLY		INFREQUENTLY		TOTAL	
	Graduates	Percent	Graduates	Percent	Graduates	Percent
Very much	50	62%	58	17%	108	25%
Somewhat	24	30%	178	50%	202	47%
Very little	6	7%	77	22%	83	19%
Not at all	1	1%	38	11%	39	9%
No response	0	-	4	-	4	-
TOTAL	81	100%	355	100%	436	100%

When the graduates were asked to indicate the major reason they chose to attend Montgomery College, almost one-third (30%) said they enrolled because the program of their choice was offered. Low cost and convenient location were other important reasons for choosing Montgomery College. These three reasons were given by 80 percent of the graduates. The results are consistent with those of the 1975 graduate study, indicating stability in students' perceptions of the College (Table XX, Figure III). It is significant that "advice of high school counselors" ranks last among the reasons given by the graduates.

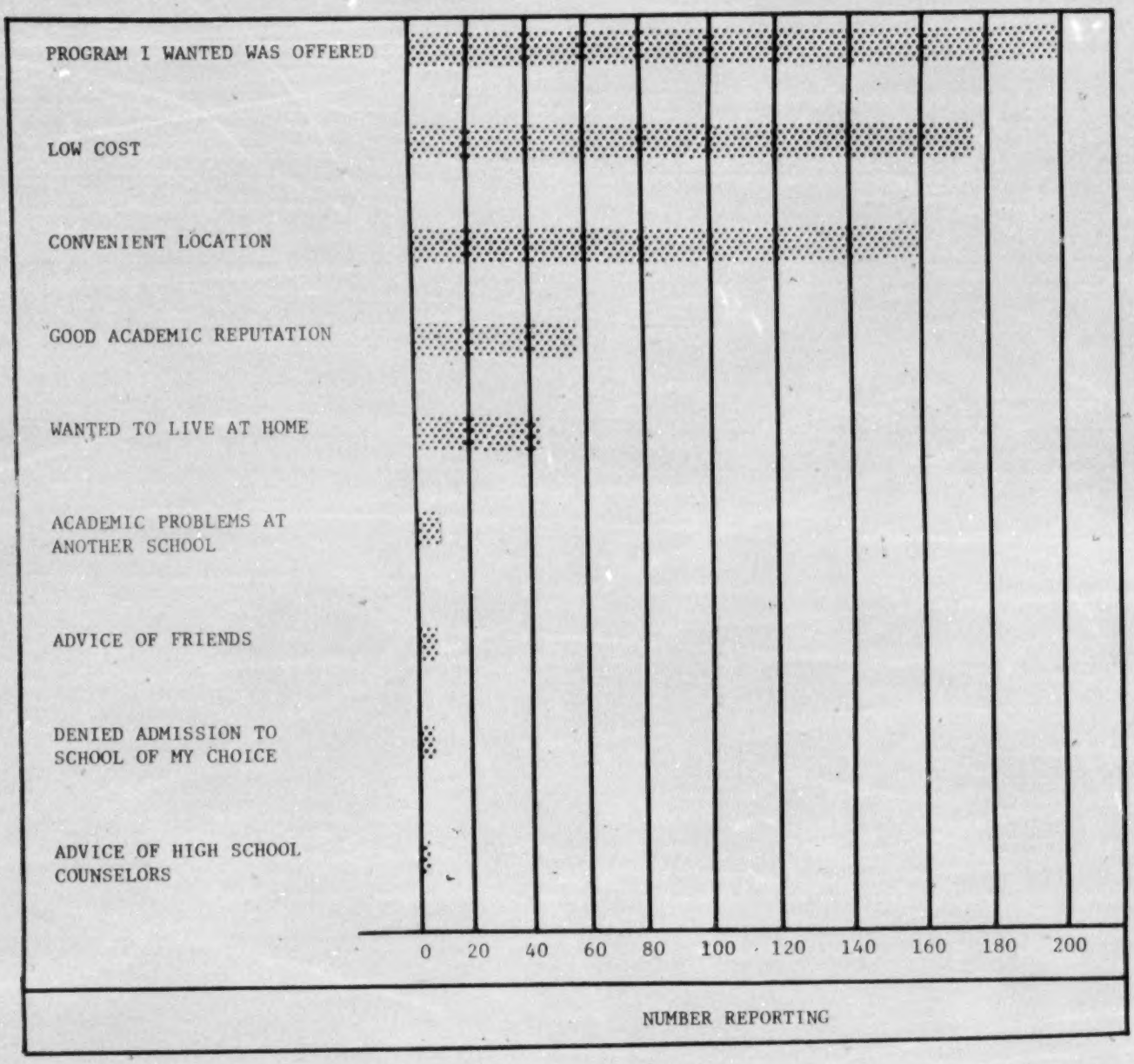
TABLE XX

REASON FOR ATTENDING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
(1976 GRADUATES)

REASONS	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Program I wanted was offered	200	30%
Low cost	175	26%
Convenient location	159	24%
Good academic reputation	55	8%
Wanted to live at home	45	7%
Academic problems at another school	10	2%
Advice of friends	9	1%
Denied admission to school of my choice	8	1%
Advice of high school counselors	3	1%
No Response	44	-
TOTAL	708	100%

FIGURE III

REASONS OF GRADUATES FOR ATTENDING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE



As an overall indication of satisfaction with Montgomery College, graduates were asked if they would advise a close friend or relative to attend Montgomery College. Of the 688 respondents to this question, an overwhelming 96 percent indicated they would give such advice (Table XXI). It may be concluded from this that Montgomery College is very successful in providing positive educational experiences for its graduates. Graduates were similarly asked if they would recommend their college programs and 88 percent responded affirmatively.

TABLE XXI

GRADUATES' RECOMMENDATIONS OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

		YES	NO	NO RESPONSE	TOTAL
1. Would you advise a close friend or relative to attend Montgomery College?	NUMBER	663	25	20	708
	PERCENT	96%	4%	-	100%
2. Would you recommend your Montgomery program to a close friend or relative?	NUMBER	590	78	40	708
	PERCENT	88%	12%	-	100%

Educational Goals of 1976 Graduates

A number of recent studies by the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis have indicated that a large proportion of students entering Montgomery College do not have a degree or certificate among their primary educational goals.[1] In order to establish a clearer picture of the motivation of Montgomery College students, the primary educational goals of the graduates themselves were assessed. The results are somewhat surprising--more than 100 (17%) of the graduate respondents said they did not have a degree or certificate as their primary goal at the time they entered the College (Table XXII). This finding is consistent with other studies although the proportion of individuals primarily seeking degrees is naturally much higher among the graduates than among nongraduates. The graduates were extremely positive about their goal achievement as 91 percent said they had achieved the goal they held at the time they entered Montgomery College (Table XXIII). Because some goals extend beyond the College, e.g., "Obtain an AA degree with plans to transfer," it is possible that some graduates may have accomplished only a portion of the goal at the time of the survey. The possibility also exists, as demonstrated above, that some of the students changed their original educational goals. Beginning in the fall of 1977, entering students will be asked to indicate their primary educational goal on their admissions application. This information will be used to assess student achievement at the College.

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[1] Montgomery College Student Follow-Up Study: First Time Students Fall 1972; A Study of the Educational Goals of Non-Matriculated Students at Montgomery College; OIRA, 1977.

TABLE XXII

EDUCATIONAL GOALS OF 1976 GRADUATES

EDUCATIONAL GOALS	NUMBER REPORTING	PERCENT
Obtain an AA degree with plans to transfer	378	55%
Obtain an AA degree with plans for immediate employment	149	22%
Obtain a certificate to upgrade or improve skills	40	6%
Obtain training in a special program	56	8%
Take some college level courses before transferring	29	4%
Take one or several courses of special interest	37	5%
No Response	19	—
TOTAL	708	100%

TABLE XXIII

GOAL ACHIEVEMENT AMONG 1976 GRADUATES

	YES	NO	NO RESPONSE	TOTAL
NUMBER	612	59	37	708
PERCENT	91%	9%	-	100%

3. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A follow-up survey of 1976 graduates was conducted as part of the program evaluation system. The aim of this survey, as in the past, was to determine the present circumstances of the 1976 graduates and their attitudes toward their educational experiences at Montgomery College. Almost equal numbers of graduates were employed as were in school at the time of the survey. Of those in school, the majority were in attendance at the University of Maryland. Of those employed, the majority were earning in excess of $8,000 per year and were employed in Montgomery County.

As in the past, 1976 graduates were extremely satisfied with their jobs, their programs of study, the level of instruction, and the counseling services at Montgomery College. In addition, an overwhelming proportion of respondents indicated that they were satisfied enough with their experiences at Montgomery College to recommend the College itself and their programs of study to close friends or relatives. The survey also revealed that a large majority of students feel that they achieved what they set out to do at Montgomery College.

Three problem areas identified in previous follow-up surveys continue to be reported by the 1976 graduates as well. These areas are the loss of transfer credits to Maryland public colleges and universities, especially the University of Maryland, the lack of college job placement services, and the apparent lack of support from high school personnel.

In terms of these areas of concern the following recommendations are offered:

1. The Student Personnel department of the College should consider conducting a case by case study of those students who report that they lost credits when they transferred to the University of Maryland. Such a study would verify what the students report on their questionnaire and identify the departments within the University which tend to deny credits.

2. The responsibility of the College to place students in jobs upon program completion should be assessed. If job placement is found to be a part of the mission of the College then resources necessary to provide an adequate service should be allocated from each career program according to the number of graduates to be placed.

3. In light of the fact that so few graduates indicated high school personnel were influential in their decision to attend Montgomery College, it is recommended that the career program coordinators be encouraged to meet with their counterparts in the Montgomery County Public Schools and develop formally articulated programs with the high schools. A similar recommendation is contained in the recent Career Specialization Feasibility Study prepared by an M.C.P.S. Citizen's Advisory Committee.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

1976 GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Graduate:

As a graduate of Montgomery College you are in a unique position to provide valuable information to the College. The information being requested in this survey will be used to advise future students and to evaluate programs. Please return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Robert L. Gell
Dean of Institutional Research and Analysis

(Please make corrections if necessary)

2-10 _____ (Name)

11-31 _____ (Address)

_____

32-33 ☐☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ M.C. Student Identification Number

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX OR BOXES AND COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE PART OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Are you now...? (Check as many as apply to you)

39 In school ☐ 1 Full-time ☐ 2 Part-time — ***Please complete*** *Parts A and D*

40 In military service ☐ 1 Active ☐ 2 Reserve — *Please complete* ***Part D***

41 Employed ☐ 1 Full-time ☐ 2 Part-time — ***If employed full-time*** *complete Part B - everyone complete* ***Part D***

42 Unemployed ☐ 1 and looking for a job ☐ 2 and not looking for a job — ***Please complete*** *Parts C and D*

43 Housewife ☐ 1 — ***Please complete Part D***

44 Other ☐ 1 — ***Please complete Part D***

IF YOU ARE IN SCHOOL, PLEASE COMPLETE PART A

PART A

45 ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENROLLED FULL-TIME ☐1 OR PART-TIME ☐2 AT...

46 ☐1 The University of Maryland; ☐2 A Maryland Public College; ☐3 A Maryland Private College or University; ☐4 A University or College in Washington, D.C.; ☐5 A University or College not in Maryland or D.C.; ☐6 A Trade or Technical School; ☐7 Attending Montgomery

47 DID YOU CHANGE MAJORS WHEN YOU TRANSFERRED? ☐1 Yes ☐2 No

48 DID YOU LOSE ANY CREDITS IN TRANSFERRING FROM M.C. TO YOUR PRESENT SCHOOL? 1___ Yes 2___ No 3___ Don't know

49-50 If yes, how many hours did you lose? _____ which courses? _____

_____

51-52 WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT MAJOR? _____

53-54 NAME OF TRANSFER COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY _____

IF YOU ARE EMPLOYED FULL-TIME, PLEASE COMPLETE PART B

PART B

WHAT IS THE TITLE OF YOUR CURRENT POSITION? _____

Employer. _____

Address: _____ Zip Code _____

PLEASE GIVE THE NAME OF YOUR SUPERVISOR SO THAT WE MAY SEND HIM/HER A QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING MONTGOMERY PROGRAMS.

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: _____ TITLE _____

USING THE CODE BELOW WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT WEEKLY SALARY WITHOUT OVERTIME AND BEFORE DEDUCTIONS?

55

$0-130	$131-145	$146-160	$161-175	$176-190	$191-205	$206-220	$221 & over
1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐	6 ☐	7 ☐	8 ☐

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EMPLOYED IN YOUR PRESENT POSITION?

56

Less than 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-5 yrs.	6-10 yrs.	11 yrs. or more
☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5

ARE YOU PRESENTLY EMPLOYED IN:

57

Montgomery County	Other County in Md.	Baltimore City	Washington, D.C.
☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4

Delaware, Pa., Virginia or West Virginia	Other Out-of-State Location
☐ 5	☐ 6

WHO HELPED YOU TO LOCATE YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING FROM MONTGOMERY COLLEGE? (Check as many as appropriate)

Faculty Member	M.C. Placement Office	Employment Agency
☐ 58	☐ 59	☐ 60

Family or Friend	M.C. Job Board	Held same job while attending Montgomery	Other
☐ 61	☐ 62	☐ 63	☐ 64

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUR PROGRAM OF STUDIES AT MONTGOMERY AND YOUR JOB?

65

Directly related	Somewhat related	Vaguely related	Not at all related
☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4

IF YOUR RESPONSE IS "NOT AT ALL RELATED" THEN CHECK THE APPROPRIATE REASON BELOW:

66

Could not find job in field ☐ 1	Better pay than in field of study ☐ 2
Better opportunity for advancement than in field of study ☐ 3	Wanted to explore other work possibilities ☐ 4
Did not want to work in field once I graduated ☐ 5	My curriculum at MC was not career-oriented ☐ 6
Other: _____ ☐ 7	

PART B (continued)

PLEASE RATE YOUR OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH YOUR CURRENT JOB.

67 Highly dissatisfied ☐ 1 Dissatisfied ☐ 2 Satisfied ☐ 3 Highly satisfied ☐ 4

PLEASE RATE YOUR SATISFACTION WITH PREPARATION MONTGOMERY PROVIDED YOU FOR YOUR JOB.

68 Highly dissatisfied ☐ 1 Dissatisfied ☐ 2 Satisfied ☐ 3 Highly satisfied ☐ 4

Please list any skill or area of knowledge which is not now included but which you feel should be included in the curriculum in which you studied and which would be beneficial for graduates entering your work area. Please include any new technologies that have arisen in your field.

_____

_____

Please go to Part D.

IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING FOR A JOB, PLEASE COMPLETE PARY C

PART C

If you are unemployed and seeking a job what is the major reason you feel you have been unable to locate employment?

69
- ☐ 1 Salary too low in the field for which I was trained at Montgomery
- ☐ 2 There are very few openings in the field for which I was trained at Montgomery
- ☐ 3 I need more education to qualify for the job I want
- ☐ 4 I have changed my career objective since graduation from Montgomery
- ☐ 5 I really am not looking for a job right now
- ☐ 6 Other:

ALL RESPONDENTS SHOULD COMPLETE PART D

PART D

While at Montgomery College did you benefit from contact with instructors outside the classroom?

70 ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 Very little ☐ 3 Somewhat ☐ 4 Very much

Did you benefit from the classroom instruction?

71 ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 Very little ☐ 3 Somewhat ☐ 4 Very much

How would you rate the difficulty of courses of MC?

72 ☐ 1 Not difficult ☐ 2 A little difficult ☐ 3 Somewhat difficult ☐ 4 Very difficult

Did you seek counseling from the counseling staff in Student Services?

73 ☐ 1 Frequently ☐ 2 Infrequently ☐ 3 Not at all

Did you benefit from the counseling you received from Counselors in Student Services?

74 ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 Very little ☐ 3 Somewhat ☐ 4 Very much

31

PART D (continued)

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON YOU CHOSE TO ATTEND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE? (Check only one)

75

- ☐ 1 Low cost
- ☐ 2 College conveniently located
- ☐ 3 Program I wanted was offered
- ☐ 4 Denied admission to another school of my choice
- ☐ 5 Had academic problems at another school
- ☐ 6 Montgomery's good academic reputation
- ☐ 7 Advice of friends
- ☐ 8 Advice of high school counselors
- ☐ 9 Wanted to live at home while attending college

76 WOULD YOU ADVISE A CLOSE FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO ATTEND MONTGOMERY COLLEGE?
☐ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No

77 WOULD YOU RECOMMEND YOUR PROGRAM AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE TO A CLOSE FRIEND OR RELATIVE? ☐ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No

78 WHAT WAS YOUR PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL GOAL WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED MONTGOMERY COLLEGE? (Check only one)

- ☐ 1 To obtain an AA degree with plans to transfer
- ☐ 2 To obtain an AA degree with plans for immediate employment
- ☐ 3 To obtain a certificate to upgrade or improve skills
- ☐ 4 To obtain training in a special program
- ☐ 5 To take some college level courses before transferring
- ☐ 6 To take one or several courses of special interest

79 DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THIS GOAL? ☐ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No

COMMENTS

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE IN ENCLOSED, STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
51 MANNAKEE STREET
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

SUMMARY TABLE

CURRICULUM	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	IN SCHOOL FT	IN SCHOOL PT	EMPLOYED FT	EMPLOYED PT	WEEKLY SALARY*	NO. OF YRS. ON JOB*	RELATIONSHIP OF STUDIES TO JOB*	SATISFACTION WITH JOB*	SATISFACTION WITH MC ON PREPARATION*
TRANSFER										
Business Administration	29	21	6	7	10	> $220	3-5	Somewhat	Satisfied	Satisfied
Cartography	1	1	0	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Community Planning	4	1	0	3	1	$161-175	< 1	Somewhat	Dissatisfied	Satisfied-Highly Satis.
Geography	2	1	0	0	1	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Education	42	24	8	14	10	$146-160	1-2	Somewhat	Satisfied	Satisfied
Engineering	7	5	1	2	0	$161-175	3-10	Vaguely	Satisfied	Satisfied
Fine Arts	22	8	9	5	8	$146-160	1-2	Vaguely	Satisfied	Satisfied
Liberal Arts	36	23	5	6	4	$176-190	< 1	Vaguely	Satisfied	Satisfied
Medical Technology	4	3	0	1	1	> $220	< 1	Not at all	Satisfied	N.R.
Theatre	1	1	0	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
TOTAL TRANSFER	148	88	29	38	35	$176-190	1-2	Vaguely	Satisfied	Satisfied
GENERAL										
General Education	186	109	40	59	44	$161-175	1-2	Not at all	Satisfied	Satisfied
CAREER										
Accounting	6	1	1	4	1	$146-160	< 1	Somewhat	Satisfied	Satisfied
Allied Health	118	8	8	81	23	$161-175	< 1	Directly	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied
Business Management	16	4	3	11	2	> $220	3-5	Directly	Satisfied	Satisfied
Cartography	1	1	0	0	1	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Community Planning	1	0	0	1	0	> $220	3-5	Not at all	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied
Geography	0	0	0	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Child Care Aide Certificate	20	4	5	12	3	< $130	< 1	Directly	Satisfied	Satisfied
Computer Science & Technology	25	9	3	11	8	> $220	1-2	Directly	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied
Engineering Technologies	23	11	2	12	4	> $220	1-2	Somewhat	Satisfied	Satisfied
Hospitality Management	10	5	4	5	0	$176-190	1-2	Somewhat	Satisfied	Satisfied
Instructional Aide Certificate	13	2	2	5	4	$131-145	< 1	Somewhat	Satisfied	Satisfied
Public Service	48	13	17	38	5	> $220	1-2	Directly	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied
Recreation Leadership	19	10	0	5	5	$146-160	< 1	Somewhat	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied-Highly Satis.
Secretarial	44	3	6	35	5	$176-190	< 1	Directly	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
Visual Communications Tech.	30	13	3	11	8	$146-160	1-2	Directly	Satisfied	Satisfied
TOTAL CAREER	374	84	54	231	69	$176-190	1-2	Directly	Satisfied	Satisfied
GRAND TOTAL	708	281	123	328	148	> $176	1-2			

* Average Category
N.R. - No response
N.A. - Not applicable

APPENDIX C

RECEIVING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

1976 GRADUATE RECEIVING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Name of School	State	Number Transferred
Alabama, University of, at Birmingham	Alabama	2
Allegheny Community College	Pennsylvania	1
American University	Wash., D.C.	28
Appalachian State University	N. Carolina	1
Arizona State	Arizona	1
Arizona, University of	Arizona	2
Baltimore, University of	Maryland	3
Boise State College	Idaho	1
Bowie State College	Maryland	2
Broward Community College	Florida	1
California Polytechnic College	California	1
Capital Institute of Technology	Maryland	1
Carnegie-Mellon University	Pennsylvania	1
Carson-Newman College	Tennessee	1
Catholic University of America	Wash., D.C.	2
Chemeketa Community College	Oregon	1
Columbia Union College	Maryland	1
Curry College	Massachusetts	1
Davis and Elkins College	W. Virginia	1
Denver, University of	Colorado	1
District of Columbia, University of the	Wash., D.C.	1
Florida Atlantic University	Florida	1
Florida Institute of Technology	Florida	1
Florida International University	Florida	2
Florida State University	Florida	1
Forsyth College	Massachusetts	1
Frostburg State College	Maryland	6
George Mason University	Virginia	1
Georgetown Universtiy	Wash., D.C.	1
George Washington University	Wash., D.C.	11
Georgia, University of	Georgia	1
Hood College	Maryland	2
Howard University	Wash.,D.C.	3
Illinois College of Optometry	Illinois	1

Indiana State University	Indiana	1
Johns Hopkins University	Maryland	1
Kansas State College at Pittsburg	Kansas	1
Madison College	Virginia	1
Marshall University	W. Virginia	1
Maryland Institute of Technology	Maryland	1
Maryland, University of	Maryland	190
Marywood College	Pennsylvania	1
Miami University	Ohio	1
Miami, University of	Florida	2
Michigan, University of	Michigan	1
Nevada Southern University	Nevada	1
North Carolina,University of	N. Carolina	1
Northern Colorado, University of	Colorado	1
Northern Illinois University	Illinois	1
Ohio University	Ohio	3
Oklahoma, University of	Oklahoma	1
Old Dominion University	Virginia	3
Pratt Institute	New York	1
Prince George's Community College	Maryland	1
Rice University	Texas	1
Rochester Institute of Technology	New York	4
Rochester, University of	New York	1
Roger Williams Junior College	Rhode Island	1
Salisbury State College	Maryland	3
San Francisco Art Institute	California	1
San Francisco, University of	California	1
Schiller College Heidelburg	W. Germany	1
Shenandoah College & Conservatory of Music	Virginia	2
South Carolina University	S. Carolina	1
Southern Connecticut State College	Connecticut	1
Southern Illinois University	Illinois	2
Temple University	Pennsylvania	1
Towson State College	Maryland	9
Virginia Commonwealth University	Virginia	1
Virginia, University of	Virginia	1
West Virginia University	W. Virginia	2

Western Kentucky University	Kentucky	1
Whittier College	California	1
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Massachusetts	1
Wright State University	Ohio	1

APPENDIX D

STARTING SALARIES OF GRADUATES

STARTING SALARIES OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GRADUATES

1976

Starting Salaries of Students Who Received a Certificate or Associate in Arts Degree During the Academic Year Ending June 30, 1976, and Who Were Working Full-Time in a Field Related to their Program of Studies at Montgomery College

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Office of Institutional Research and Analysis

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Montgomery County, Maryland

1976

OIRA Report 7-15

STARTING SALARIES OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GRADUATES

1976

Approximately six months after graduation (January 1977) all graduates of Montgomery College are surveyed in an effort to discover their current status in regards to employment and education. Employed graduates are asked to indicate how long they have held their present position and their weekly salary before deductions. For the purposes of this report, only those graduates who were working in an area related to their studies and who secured their position within a year prior to the survey were compared.

The salaries range from a low of $120.00 per week in six of the career areas to a high of over $221.00 in three areas. The most common salary range was from $131.00 to $160.00 per week. In some of the career fields the number of employees is too small to support generalizations.

In a separate study the evaluation of the career programs by the employers is analyzed.

MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

WEEKLY SALARY RANGES OF 1976 GRADUATES OF CAREER CURRICULUMS+

CURRICULUM*	NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN JOBS RELATED TO CURRICULUM**	TOTAL WEEKLY SALARY RANGE	MOST COMMON WEEKLY SALARY RANGE
Accounting	3	$131 to $160	$131 to $145
Computer Science & Tech.-Business	1	$206 to $220	$206 to $220
Dental Assistant	7	$120 to $160	$131 to $145
Dental Lab Technology	4	$120 to $175	$146 to $160
Advertising Art-Design	3	$131 to $160	$131 to $145
Advertising Art-Illustration	1	$146 to $160	$146 to $160
Engineering Tech.-Electronic	1	$176 to $190	$176 to $190
Child Care Aide Certificate	5	$120 to $130	$120 to $130
Fire Science	1	$221 and over	$221 and over
Hospitality Management - Food & Bev.	1	$146 to $160	$146 to $160
Medical Lab Technology	1	$120 to $130	$120 to $130
Mental Health Associate	4	$120 to $190	$161 to $175
Instructional Aide Certificate	2	$131 to $220	$131 to $220
Medical Assistant	3	$161 to $190	$161 to $175
Nursing	32	$146 to over $221	$221 and over
Fire Science Certificate	1	$221 and over	$221 and over
Dental Assisting Certificate	3	$146 to $160	$146 to $160
Medical Assistant Certificate	1	$131 to $145	$131 to $145
Radiologic Technology	7	$131 to $220	$191 to $205
Secretarial-Executive	8	$131 to $220	$206 to $220
Secretarial-Legal	11	$146 to $220	$176 to $190
Secretarial Certificate	1	$161 to $175	$161 to $175
Secretarial-Medical	4	$131 to $175	$161 to $175
Recreation Leadership	4	$120 to $190	$120 to $130
Printing	1	$146 to $160	$146 to $160
TOTAL	110		

* Only those curriculums are reported for which we have information.

** This is limited to those working less than one year.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

SEP 2 1977

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES

PARTIAL LIST OF

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH REPORTS

Office of Institutional Research and Analysis

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